



# MIAMI-SOUTH FLORIDA

## National Weather Service Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/miami>

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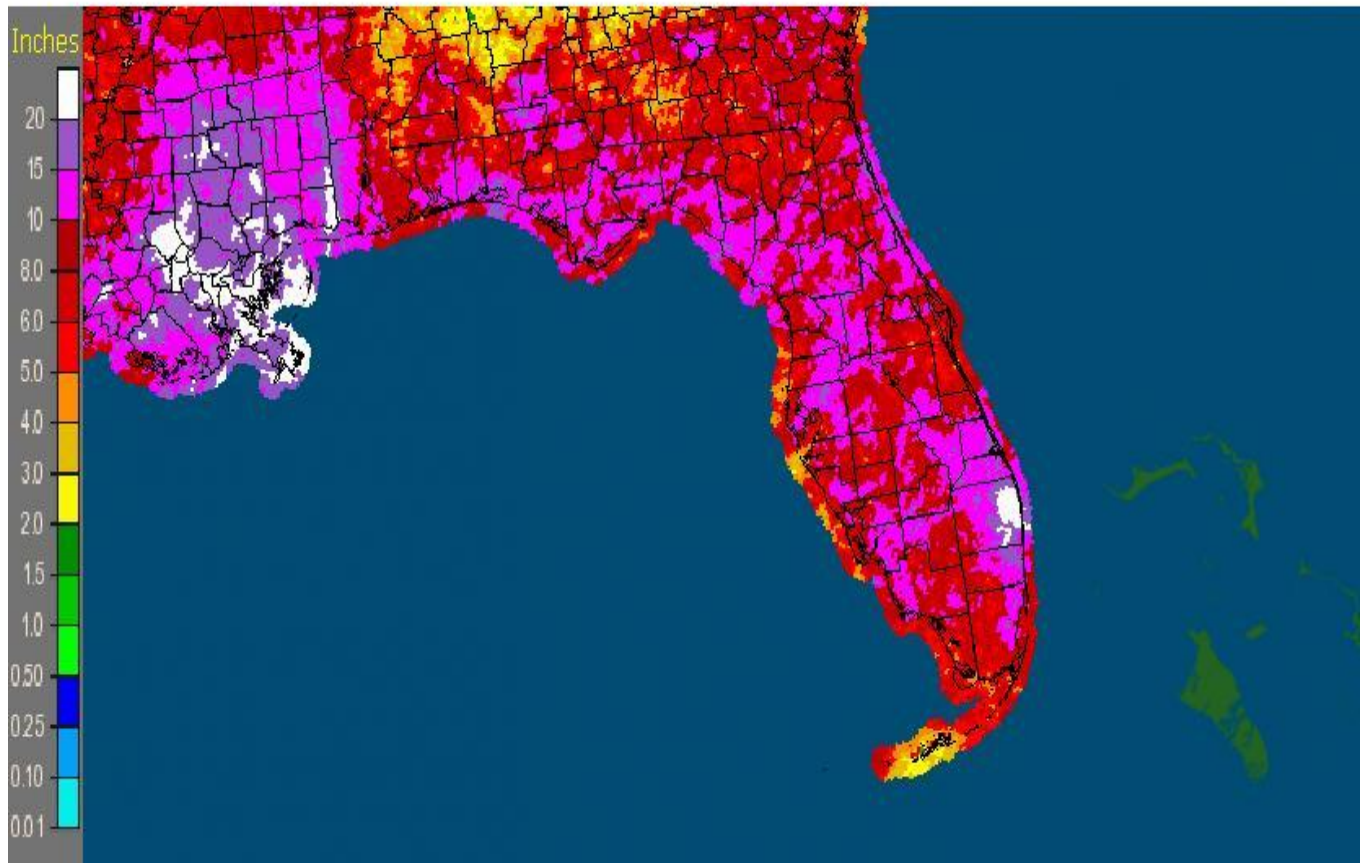
## RECORD-BREAKING-WET AUGUST

After a mixed-bag of rainfall for much of the summer, the month of August was characterized by periods of widespread heavy rainfall. Most of the eastern metro region of South Florida received anywhere from 10 to 20 inches of rain, with another area of over 10 inches over western sections of Collier and Hendry counties (Figure 1).

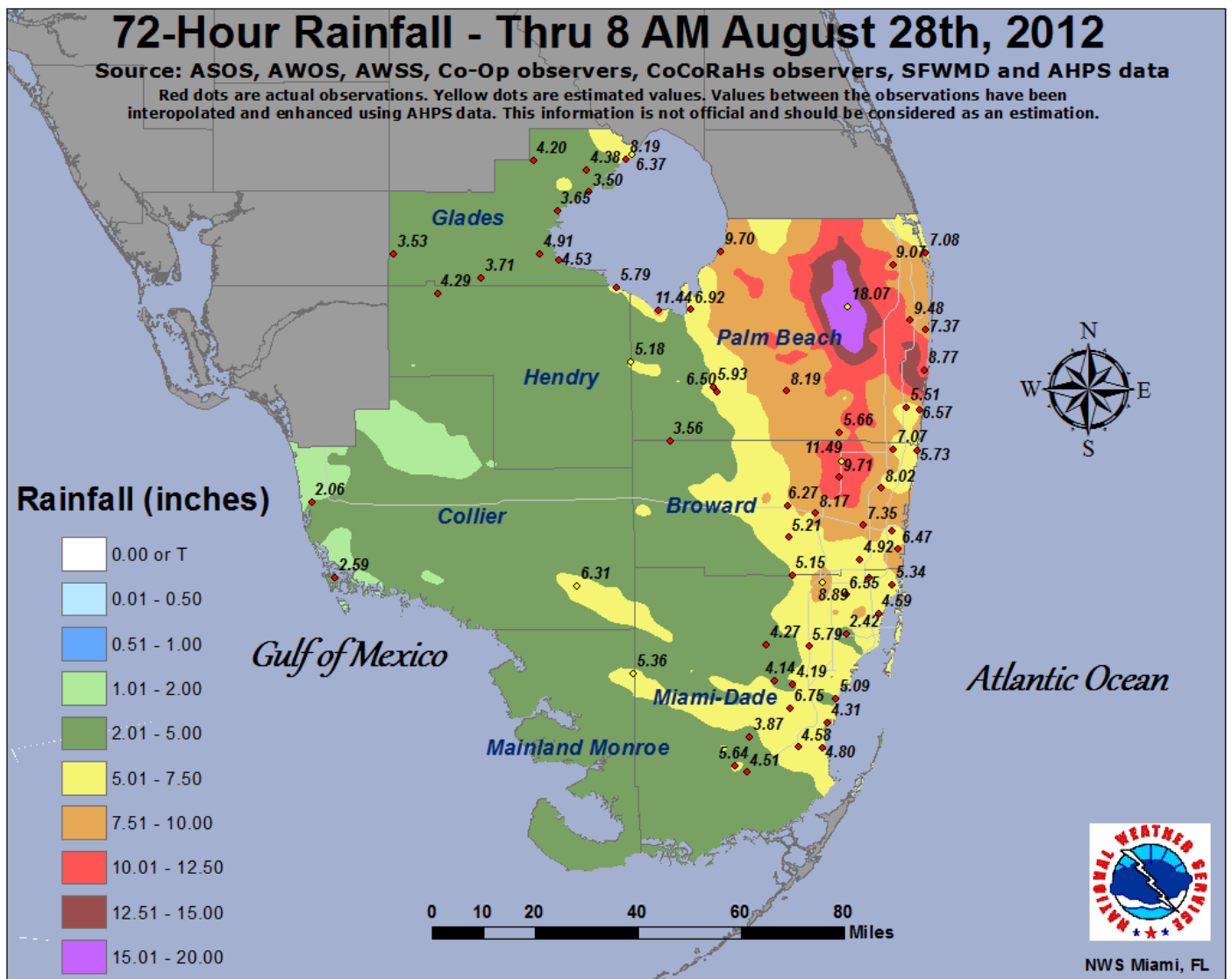
Of the 31 sites that report daily rainfall over mainland South Florida, all but five reported monthly rainfall in excess of 10 inches. Two locations, Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach, exceeded 20 inches for the month. Tropical Storm Isaac was responsible for much of this rainfall (Figure 2), but heavy rain fell on several other days in August as South Florida was under a predominantly moist southerly wind flow resulting from lower atmospheric pressure over the eastern half of the United States (Figures 3 and 4). According to the [South Florida Water Management District](#), it was the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest August for the district since 1932 (Note: the district includes areas north and northeast of Lake Okeechobee not covered by NWS Miami).

In areas where summer rainfall was copious even before August, particularly over the east coast metro, year-to-date rainfall is on pace to break the all-time record for a calendar year. These locations include Miami International Airport (68.48 inches as of 8/31), Miami Beach (48.34 inches) and The Redland (63.54 inches). West Palm Beach is on pace for their second-wettest year on record (61.47 inches).

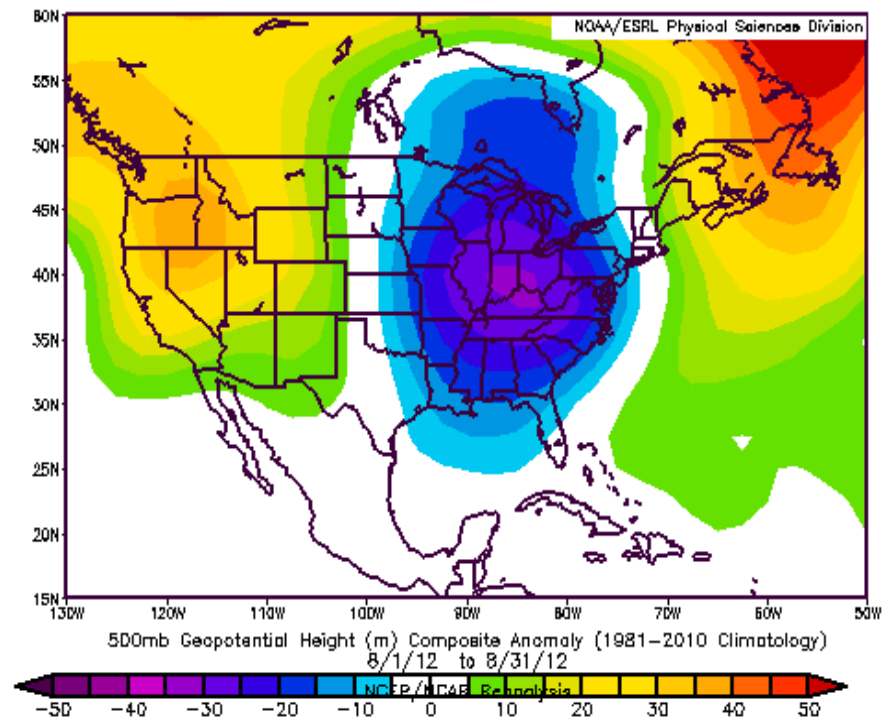
Florida: August, 2012 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 9/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 9/3/12 21:38 UTC



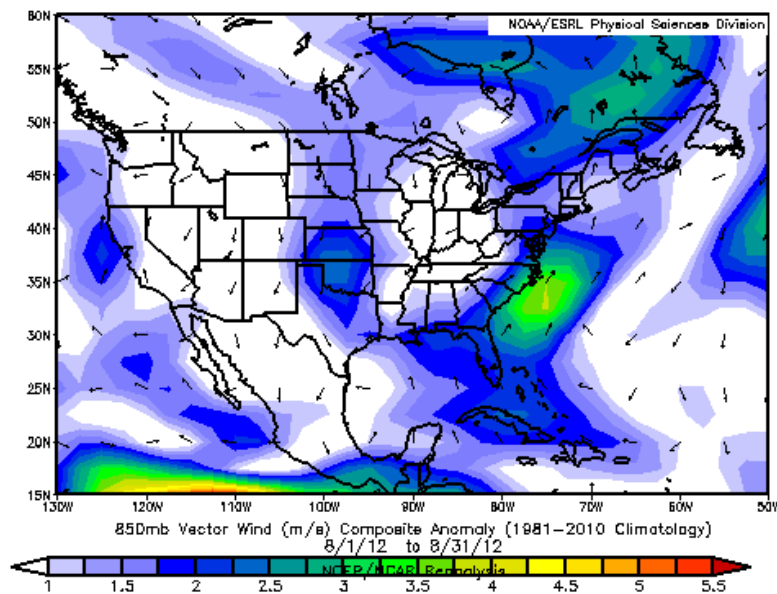
**FIGURE 1:** August precipitation totals.



**FIGURE 2:** Isaac storm-total precipitation



**FIGURE 3:** 500 MB HEIGHT ANOMALIES FOR AUGUST 2012. BLUE AND PURPLE COLORS OVER THE EASTERN U.S. EXTENDING INTO FLORIDA CORRESPOND TO LOW PRESSURE IN THE MID-TROPOSPHERE.



**FIGURE 4:** 850 MB WIND ANOMALIES FOR AUGUST 2012. BLUE COLORS OVER FLORIDA AND BLACK ARROWS CORRESPOND TO STRONGER-THAN-NORMAL SOUTHERLY WINDS IN THE LOW LEVELS.

Below are August 2012 rainfall totals at select sites across South Florida. Rainfall values are listed in inches.

***AUGUST 2012 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL IN INCHES***

<b>Station – Beginning of Records</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>Dep. from Normal (Rank)</b>
WEST PALM BEACH – 1888	22.66	+14.71 (wettest on rec.)
MIAMI – 1911	15.92	+7.04 (4 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
NAPLES – 1942	10.94	+ 2.36 (12 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
FORT LAUDERDALE - 1912	10.26	+ 2.82 (15 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
PALM BEACH GARDENS	20.24	+12.60
THE REDLAND - 1958	19.49	+9.79 (wettest on rec.)
NWS MIAMI – FIU MAIN	19.46	+9.55
CANAL POINT - 1941	16.58	+8.76 (2 <sup>nd</sup> wettest)
HOMESTEAD GEN APT - 1990	16.56	+7.32 (2 <sup>nd</sup> wettest)
JUNO BEACH	15.53	+7.49
BRIGHTON RESERVATION	15.09	+7.43
HIALEAH - 1958	14.79	+5.26 (5 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
FT. LAUD. DIXIE WTR PLANT	14.29	
MUSE	13.83	
NORTH MIAMI BEACH	12.73	+3.67
NAPLES (GOLDEN GATE)	12.54	
EVERGLADES CITY (NPS)	12.43	+2.47 (9 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
SOUTH BAY (OKEELANTA)	12.11	
LABELLE - 1929	11.38	+3.42 (8 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
MOORE HAVEN - 1918	11.13	+3.56 (8 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
CAPE FLORIDA	11.02	+3.41
OASIS RANGER STN - 1978	11.00	+1.45 (11 <sup>th</sup> wettest)
FORT LAUDERDALE BCH	10.56	+2.17
MARCO ISLAND	10.30	+1.18
DEVILS GARDEN	8.65	-0.38

HOLLYWOOD – 1963	7.98	
ORTONA	7.58	-1.39
FLAMINGO RNGR STN	7.03	
IMMOKALEE	6.69	-1.14

*NORMAL VALUES ARE THE 1981-2010 CLIMATIC AVERAGES, BUT ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR ALL OBSERVING LOCATIONS.*

## TEMPERATURES

The increased cloud cover and rainfall played a big role in keeping temperatures near to slightly below normal during August. This is a continuation of the temperature patterns observed since the beginning of the rainy season in May.

## OUTLOOK AND HAZARDS

The long-range outlook by the [Climate Prediction Center](#) for the rest of September calls for equal chances of above, below or near normal precipitation and temperatures. Long-range models such as the CFS call for drier-than-normal conditions through September and extending into October. This reflects the typically-high amount of uncertainty in long-range outlooks. Considering that September ranks as one of the wetter months of the year, this still means we'll see areas of locally heavy rain which is typical of the time of year.

September in South Florida means that tropical cyclones are a possibility. September ranks second behind October as the month in which South Florida has been directly hit by hurricanes, and is the month of greatest MAJOR hurricane strikes. While South Florida did not experience major wind impacts from Isaac last month, the severe flooding experienced in some areas was a stark reminder that tropical cyclones bring more than one type of threat. Make sure you are prepared for the peak of hurricane season by ensuring that personal and business hurricane plans are in place. Go to [ready.gov](#) for information and preparedness checklists.

September is also a prime month for [rip currents](#). Always swim near a lifeguard and heed the advice of Ocean Rescue personnel. Pay attention to flags posted at lifeguard stands which alert of the potential rip current danger.

For daily weather forecasts, watches, warnings and statements, please visit our web site at [weather.gov/southflorida](#). We are also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!